

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 /120 W

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R 070736Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0464

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PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS/STARKEY/SUGAR & TROPICAL PRODS/FCS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: REPORT ON SUGAR EMBARGO

REF: STATE 024906

1. EMBARGO ON LOADINGS AND ALL SUGAR MOVEMENTS IMPOSED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS JANUARY 27, OSTENSIBLY TO HALT EXTENSIVE SMUGGLING AND DUE TO TYPHOON DAMAMGE, HAS BEEN PARTIALLY LIFTED. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ALL SHIPS IN PORT GIVEN GO-AHEAD TO LOAND AND LIFTING OF EMBARGO EXPECTED BEFORE AUTHORIZED LOADINGS COMPLETED.

2. AGATTACHE INFORMED THAT THERE ARE TWO SHIPS SCHEDULED FOR U.S. GREAT WELFARE, 8,900 L.T. IN PORT OVER 70 DAYS WHEN BAN IMPOSED BUT HAS BEEN LOADED AND DEPARTED. DONA CORAZON, 26,250 L.T. IN PORT 26 DAYS, SCHEDULED TO START LOADING FEB. 8.
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DEMURRAGE TO BE PAID BY PNB AT RATE OF \$1,000 PER DAY

AFTER ALLOWING GRACE PERIOD OF NINE AND TWENTY-SIX DAYS, RESPECITVELY, WITH FORCE MAJEURE ALLOWANCES.

3. ACTION TAKEN BY GOP IN RESPONSE TO FACT THAT WAREHOUSES VIRTUALLY AT CAPACITY WITH DANGER OF SUGARCANE GRIDDINGS BEING CURTAILED. ALSO RUMORED THAT JAPAN HAS SURPLUS SUGAR AND IS SEEKING TO RESELL. HOWEVER, IMPACT THIS ACTION ON PHILIPPINES IS NEBULOUS DUE TO FACT CONTRACTS ARE WITH LARGE INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS AND SUPPLY CAN BE FROM ANY AVAILABLE SOURCE.

4. IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AS IF MARCOS MAY HAVE IMPOSED BAN IN A MOVE TO STRENGTHEN PRICES, ONLY TO REALIZE BOTH THAT BAN CAN NOT BE SUSTAINED BECAUSE OF OVERFLOWING STORAGE FACILITIES AND THAT PHILIPPINES FACING A SOMEWHAT BUYER'S MARKET. IF SO, PHILIPPINES MAY FINALLY HAVE OUTSMARTED ITSELF IN A HIGH STAKES GAME, AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARE REPORTEDLY ALREADY BEING DRESSED DOWN BY MALACANANG.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS FROM EMBASSY TOKYO ON STATE OF JAPANESE SUGAR MARKET, VERACITY OF REPORTED NEGOTIATIONS FOR RESALE OF SUGAR TO U.S. OR OTHER COUNTRIES AND SOURCE OF SUCH SUGAR.
SULLIVAN

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